Reviewer's report

Title: Capacity Building for Health Research in Bangladesh using a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: The Role of Core Funding

Version: 1 Date: 19 January 2011

Reviewer: Siriwan Pitayarangsarit

Reviewer's report:

1. Major compulsory revisions
1.1 It is not clear whether the paper aims to evaluate research institute’s performance or to evaluate impact of the new funding arrangement on capacity building which I found the latter is more interesting.

1.2 If the paper focuses on the performance assessment in terms of outputs and outcomes, it should be ensured that the data between different points are comparable and presented. Please consider whether the training and the operation and management should be measured as the process indicators rather than the outcomes or outputs indicators.

1.3 If this paper aims to highlight the funding mechanism, there should be a set of clear indicators measuring the process e.g. budget allocation profile on capacity building, supporting infrastructure, IT, etc and other operation and management indicators. I interprete that the M&E framework is an approach for the integration and participation. If you think so, you may suggest on what items should be discussed amongst the donors and recipients and what should be included in an agreed framework. From your experience, what items were deleted or unuseful and what items were added and why?

1.4 change the title according to your main focus.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.